

## **Dumont Shade Tree Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes**

June 18, 2012

7:40 PM

Present: Larry Tobias, Ray Slaman, Abbie Slaman, Tom Fisichella, Rafael Riquelme, Sally Tayeb, Absent- Ryan Mertz, Special Guest Ada Smith

**Sunshine Law:** The Dumont Shade Tree Commission has complied with the open public meeting act, having sent notice to The Record, Ridgewood news and filed with the Municipal Clerk and posted on the Borough's Official Bulletin Board.

Motion by Ray Slaman to approve the 5/21/12 meeting minutes, second by Larry Tobias. All in favor, Rafael Riquelme abstain.

Tom mentioned that Steve Peron from the New Milford Shade Tree wasn't able to attend this month meeting, but will next meeting. This will be a valuable way to gather and share information.

**Tree Maintenance:** So far we have 54 trees removed compared to 68 last year. End of Garfield project is done. Craig Grothues of C-Scape Landscaping, LLC, did a great job on the project. He planted 7 Manhattan Euonymus shrubs and 3 Green Giant Arborvitae on that location. This project was able to be completed due to last year's settlement money. Shade tree has received two emails thanking us for a great job done. Two adopt-a-tree issues were taken care of, one in 41 McKinley and one in Elizabeth. The bucket truck is back in service and it is up to code. We are in need of a stump grinder. The town has a log of 300 stumps to be grinded in public land. Price to purchase a used grinder ranges around \$20,000. The Red Maple across from the Babe Ruth Field is dead.

**I-Tree:** Nothing to report.

**Adopt-a- Tree:** Thank you Ada Smith for all her hard work on the adopt-a-tree program. Brookside Tavern is requesting a tree in their sidewalk. 96 Dumont Avenue tree planting was not possible due to the sprinkler system and tree roots. A question was brought up about replacing the trees that were lost in front of Honiss School on last year storm. This year all the Dumont schools received one tree each from adopt-a-tree program. So far for the fall we have 12 applications. Ryan is helping out Ray to spear head the fall planting. George DiConstanza, a resident from the apartment complex approached Rafael about possibility of tree plantings on Marion Street area. DSTC will look into it.

**Ordinance Proposal:** Looking to introduce ordinance to dictate guide lines concerning tree evaluations. Also guide lines for the Land Use Board for planting in the business district, removals of trees, and new construction. There should be better communication between DSTC and Land Use Board for notification of new applications, so the Shade Tree have a say on the effect on the local environment.

**Arboretum:** The Walkway and Gazebo project was approved. The total amount for the project provided by the county is \$69,000. Also the Arboretum needs to change designation to Park. DSTC wants to have input in the construction of the Walkway and Gazebo.

**Friends of the Shade Tree, Inc.:** Following are steps needed to be followed to be able to accept donations.

1-The By-Laws need to be reviewed and approved by the commissioners on the next meeting.

2-Need to issue a check for payment to the state to acquire the 501 c 3 classifications.

This process takes about 6 months. After IRS issues the non-profit classification, we will be able to accept donations. A bank account will be established, board of directors and address.

**Community Outreach:** DSTC will have a table at the Dumont Farmers Market some Saturdays, pending coverage. The table will have the adopt-a-tree forms, heritage tree forms, tree information, and Arbor Day t-shirts for sale.

Press release on the Twin-Boro News in-regards to who to contact for tree issues in town will be posted.

Meeting Adjourned 9:06pm